



Christ Has Risen!

*Easter Sunday, Resurrection of
the Lord*

Luke 24:1-12

Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here; he has risen!

John 20:1-18

*Go . . . to my brothers and tell them, I am
ascending to my Father and your Father, to my
God and your God.*

March 27, 2016

Thoughts for the Week

Going Home

A pastor had been on a long flight between church conferences.

The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on: Fasten Your Seat Belts.

Then, after a while, a calm voice said, "We shall not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence.

Please be sure your seat belt is fastened."

As the pastor looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice on the intercom said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us."

And then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightning lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash.

The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him.

He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm.

"Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her. She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat; she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly.

"Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world.

When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid."

The minister could hardly believe his eyes.

It was not surprising therefore, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, our pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time.

Having commented about the storm and the behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid. The child replied, "Cause my Daddy's the pilot, and he's taking me home."

There are many kinds of storms that buffet us. Physical, mental, financial, domestic, and many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our plane into apparently uncontrollable movement. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on the ground than when we are being tossed about a darkened sky.

Let us remember: Our Father is the Pilot.

He is in control and taking us home.

Don't worry!

Prayer Thought – Hong Kong

O God of peace, we praise you and give thanks for your gentle, guiding presence in our lives, for your redeeming love, and for your generous grace. Guide our thoughts as we strive to know and do your will.

God of grace, we confess the sins that separate us from you and one another and humbly seek forgiveness.

We uphold for your blessing of peace the people of Hong Kong. Guide the leaders of all nations that they may seek what is good and what is just for the welfare of all people.

We pray for the needs and concerns of those gathered here. Give us the courage and compassion to be your presence of generosity, peace and healing in the lives of others.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, we pray. Amen.

Stewardship Thought

"He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

On this Easter Sunday, allow Jesus to fill your mind, body and soul.

Pray for guidance on how to live your life,
open your heart to those in need and give thanks to God for all that He has given you.

Quote for the Week

*The great gift of Easter is hope –
Christian hope that makes us have that confidence in God,
in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love,
which nothing can shake.*

Basil C. Hume

*"Here is the amazing thing about Easter;
the Resurrection Sunday for Christians is this,
that Christ in the dying moments on the cross
gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible."*

T.D. Jakes